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Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Series
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Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries Installation
U-M/SNU Graduate Exchange Program
In the spirit of Elder Sang-Yong Nam and continuing his traditions, the Nam Center for Korean Studies is proud to announce the inaugural Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture. The lecture is an annual event that honors Elder Nam’s legacy and his commitment to supporting the Korean community and promoting Korean studies.

The first Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture was held on March 22, 2012 in Hussey Room at the Michigan League. The lecture featured Professor Youngju Ryu, a professor of political science at Yonsei University, as the guest speaker. Professor Ryu delivered a lecture titled “China’s Rise and the Future of the Korean Peninsula.”

The lecture was followed by a panel discussion with other experts in the field, including Professor Mary Gallagher, a professor of political science at the University of Michigan, and Dr. Chung-in Moon, a professor of political science at Yonsei University and the former ambassador for international security affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South Korea.

The panelists discussed a range of topics, including the implications of China’s rising power on the Korean Peninsula and the broader implications for the region. The panelists emphasized the importance of understanding the complex dynamics at play in the region and the need for countries to work together to promote stability and prosperity.

The Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture is an annual event that aims to honor Elder Nam’s legacy and his commitment to supporting the Korean community and promoting Korean studies. The lecture is open to the public and is a great opportunity for students and the general public to learn more about Korea and its culture.

In conclusion, the first Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture was a success and set a high standard for future events. The lecture and panel discussion raised important questions and sparked meaningful conversations. We look forward to hosting future events that continue to honor Elder Nam and promote Korean studies.

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Cynthia Yoon, First Recipient of the Sang-Yong Nam Award

The Nam Center for Korean Studies is proud to announce the inaugural Sang-Yong Nam Award. The award honors one graduating senior or recent graduate of the University of Michigan whose academic accomplishment, citizenship, service to the community, and commitment to Korean studies exemplify the values to which Elder Sang-Yong Nam dedicated his life.

Cynthia Yoon was honored as the first award recipient at the annual Elder Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture held on March 22, 2012.

Cynthia Rohm Oh Yoon (MSW ’11) was born in Seoul, Korea, and she spent most of her childhood in Daejeon, Korea. After she immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 2000, she became passionate about sharing her Korean culture with her American peers. Cynthia especially enjoys performing Samulnori, a Korean percussion ensemble, with her family at various school events.

In 2007, she entered the University of Michigan. Through her interactions with Elder Nam and the Nam Center faculty and staff, Cynthia was inspired to pursue Korean Studies and become an active member of Korea-related communities. She led various Korea interest groups on and off campus and spoke for greater student involvement and leadership in Korean Studies at various professional conferences. During her last two years at Michigan, she was heavily invested in her honors thesis which examined the foreign marriage phenomenon in South Korea, the foreign marriage phenomenon in South Korea and her experiences in South Korea.

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Cynthia Yoon was the first award recipient at the annual Elder Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture. She is a graduating senior at the University of Michigan and has been an active member of Korea-related communities.

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In conclusion, the Sang-Yong Nam Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a graduating senior or recent graduate of the University of Michigan to Korean Studies. This year’s recipient, Cynthia Yoon, exemplifies the values to which Elder Nam dedicated his life.

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Hallyu 2.0: The Korean Wave in the Age of Social Media

The kick-off conference in the Perspectives on Contemporary Korea series was “Hallyu 2.0: The Korean Wave in the Age of Social Media,” April 6, 2012. Appealing to academics and non-academics alike, 100 people (including some Hallyu fans and a group from Hillsdale College) turned out to see 16 speakers—representing universities in Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, Israel, South Korea and the United States—at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The conference sought to define a new trend in Hallyu research by overcoming the methodology of the existing research on the subject, and by sounding out transnational circulations and receptions of Korean popular culture through the new medium, social media. This intensive one-day conference was composed of four distinct but inter-related panels: “Conceptualizing Hallyu 2.0,” “K-pop Reconsidered,” “Cultural-Industrial Geography of Hallyu,” and “Hallyu 2.0 and its Discontents.” Each participant persuasively argued that Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and a myriad of other social networking platforms as well as legitimate/legitimate online video streaming services have boosted the dissemination of Korea’s popular media contents to regions where the traditional media had never reached before. For the past several years, as a consequence, Korean TV dramas and variety shows, films, online games, and popular songs have rapidly been spreading to and accepted by an increasing number of youths around the world with various ethnic and national backgrounds.

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and a myriad of other social networking platforms as well as legitimate/legitimate online video streaming services have boosted the dissemination of Korea’s popular media contents to regions where the traditional media had never reached before.

Overall, the conference served two distinct purposes. First and foremost, the conference theme—Hallyu 2.0 in the Age of Social Media—stressed core trends in contemporary research in the field of Korean cinema, media and popular culture studies, approaching the topic from interdisciplinary and transnational perspectives. Presenters came from various disciplines and national backgrounds, incorporating unique knowledge and experiences into their research. Prof. Sangjoon Lee (Screen Arts and Cultures) opened the conference, introducing the work presented at already planned conferences like Hallyu 2.0, and reviewing the context of the conference with “the secular.”

The chief objective of this conference is to investigate the possibility of reading the surging interest in transgression, which has arguably attained an air of sacredness in mainstream culture, as an instance of a search for a “secular” value. The conference will therefore encourage its participants to ask, when and how did transgression become so desirable and consumer-friendly—and not just possible—in Korea? And, should we associate this attitude towards transgression with “the secular”?

The conference explored the notion of transgression as a “secular” value from a comparative perspective—both temporal and spatial—to underscore and contribute to the growing debate on the heterogenous nature of secularism as a way of life.

The organizers of the conference therefore welcome papers that critically examine transgression in either modern or pre-modern Korea and also papers that discuss transgression in a broader Asian or global context. While this conference is unlikely to gain the attention of pop-music fans or Dramafever.com viewers, Drs. Ahn and Kwak expect it to draw interest from a broad set of disciplines with a specific focus on the topic.

Conference organizers would like to express a deep appreciation to the Academy of Korean Studies for its active support since the preparatory phase of this conference series. Upcoming conferences also include:

- Sports, Branding and National Identity
  Oct. 18, 2013
- The Cultures of Yushin
  Fall 2014
- Globalization of Law
  Fall 2015

Perspectives on Contemporary Korea
Conference Series 1

Transgression as a Secular Value: Korea in Transition

The Nam Center is committed to making conferences like Hallyu 2.0 regular occurrences on campus. For second conference in the Perspectives series, the Nam Center has accepted 16 abstracts and secured keynote speakers: Prof. Nancy Abelmann, University of Illinois, Harry E. Peddle Professor and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research. Organized by Prof. John Ahn, along with Prof. Kwak, “Transgression as a Secular Value: Korea in Transition?” will take place Oct. 25-27 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with six panel sessions (grouped by theme: overview, gender, law, generational/youth, religion, and society) and a keynote talk. Crossing new limits, engaging on the law, and ignoring convention are often cited as examples of transgression. In traditional Korea, where religion played a vital role in demarcating social and personal boundaries, transgressive acts—such as engaging in illicit sexual behavior, challenging gender norms, defying social hierarchies, defying icons and symbols, using excessive violence, etc.—often served as a critical means for testing these boundaries of social acceptability, identity, power, and truth. But what happens to these transgressive acts after the “demystification” and “secularization” of society? Do they become obsolete? If they still test boundaries, then whose boundaries do these transgressive acts test? Taking cues from the proliferation of successful Korean films that take transgression as their central theme, “Transgression” will bring together scholars from both the social sciences and humanities to address these and other similar questions about the significance of transgression in modern and pre-modern Korea.

Nam Center Partners with UM Press on Book Series Examining Contemporary Korea Topics

The Nam Center will be collaborating with the University of Michigan Press to publish a series of books based on the Perspectives theme, creating an urgently needed venue for cutting-edge scholarship. The series will aim to be a flagship publication that addresses major social, cultural, and political topics in contemporary Korea in comparative contexts, with a large—inter-national, inter-period, and inter-disciplinary. The initial few multi-author volumes, starting with Hallyu 2.0, spring from the work presented at already planned conferences. Prof. Nipon Kitis and Yongju Ryo will be series editors, Prof. Sangjoon Lee and Markus Normes will be volume editors for the inaugural title, which is expected to hit the shelves sometime in Winter Term 2014. The Academy of Korean Studies is supporting this publication endeavor.
Korea in the Asian Context

CeDEM-ASIA-2012: Social and Mobile Media for Governance

The Nam Center, with support from the Academy for Korean Studies, will be supporting the research presented at International Conference for E-Democracy and Open Government: Social & Mobile Media for Governance (CeDEM-ASIA-2012) held on November 14-15, 2012 in Singapore.

Now means of interacting with government and political institutions are causing significant shifts in political and social life. The emerging social and mobile media practices, including content generation, collaboration, and network organization, are changing our understanding of governance and politics. While the changes are already widely debated in mature, developed democracies, there is an even greater need to address them in the context of rapidly developing Asian societies. Following five successful conferences at the Danube University of Krems, CeDEM is looking to open a new forum in Asia for the exchange of ideas, networking, and collaboration on the topics of e-democracy and open government. This year, CeDEM is pleased to be working with the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) as its conference organizer and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore as its main partner. CeDEM-Asia-2012 seeks to critically analyze present and future developments in field, with a special focus on the following themes:

- Social media to engage citizens, smart & mobile democracy, sustainability of e-participation
- Mobilization via social media, networks vs. traditional party-structure, online campaigning
- Communication technologies and their use for governmental transformation
- Open data initiatives, transparency, participation and collaboration in government
- Cultures of governance, access and openness, crowdsourcing for government
- Information provision, mobile devices, service delivery via new communication channels
- Online communities, innovation, bottom-up vs. top-down
- Network effects, power laws, long tail, social web

Conference Chairs
- Nojin Kwak (University of Michigan, USA)
- Peter Parycek (Danube University Krems, Austria)
- Marko M. Skoric (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

U-M/SNU Graduate Exchange Program

The University of Michigan (U-M) and Seoul National University (SNU) College of Humanities provides masters and doctoral students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to present academic work, first in the sheltered environment of peers and faculty mentors, then broadening to critiquing each other as peers and future colleagues, and making inquiries of outside leading faculty. At the first meeting of the U-M/SNU Graduate Exchange Program in May 2012, five graduate students—Michael Prentice, Hayeon Lee, Susan Hwang, Juhn Ahn, and Nora Hauk—presented papers in Seoul, Korea to fellow graduate students from SNU. In addition to presentations from the five U-M students as well as seven SNU students, students heard state-of-the-art lectures from SNU professors in history and literature. Director Nojin Kwak delivered congratulatory remarks at the opening ceremony, and Dr. Juhn Ahn served as a faculty discussant for a roundtable discussion.

In the second year of the program, SNU graduate students will travel to Ann Arbor, and spend the week with their U-M counterparts in May 2013. As an expansion of this program, the Nam Center will support the U-M/SNU students in organizing and running a two-day conference consecutive to the exchange program, providing students with an invaluable opportunity to gain faculty-level experience while they are still in graduate school. An organizing committee comprised of U-M/SNU students will review submissions from an open call for papers, selecting 20-30 papers from graduate students internationally. The conference program will focus on presentation of the graduate students’ original work in Korea-related area and disciplinary studies.

ICA Conference

The Nam Center’s first “New Media and Citizenship in Asia” preconference at the 62nd Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), on May 24, 2012 laid the groundwork for increased international visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline. The first in a series planned to increase the visibility of Korea in the Asian international contexts of the communication studies discipline.

The ICA is the most influential organization in communication studies, and its international, annual meeting, along with the preconferences, attracts approximately 2,000 scholars from around the world. Next year’s conference will create an opportunity for increased international visibility of Korea-related, Asia situated disciplinary research in Europe, as it is taking place in London, England, United Kingdom in June 2013. The call for papers is expected to go out during fall 2012. Topics addressed will take advantage of temporal proximity to the presidential election in Korea, examining the roles of social media, mobile phones and other new communication technologies in the formation of democratic citizenship work in Asia as well as in comparative contexts within and outside Asia.

Director Nojin Kwak organized this conference along with Dr. Scott Campbell (U-M Dept. of Communication Studies), Dr. Marko Skoric (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), Lee, Susan Hwang, Irhe Sohn, and Nora Hauk—presented on topics such as Korean perceptions behind the notion of “world literature” through the lens of kinship and modernity, as well as Susan Hwang’s talk called, “World Literature and its Discontents,” which problematized the politics behind the notion of “world literature” through Korean literary works. Students from SNU presented on topics such as Korean perceptions of the American military occupation in the 1940s (Soo-Hyung Park) and the interpretation involving presented papers in Seoul, Korea to fellow graduate students from SNU. In addition to presentations from the five U-M students as well as seven SNU students, students heard state-of-the-art lectures from SNU professors in history and literature. Director Nojin Kwak delivered congratulatory remarks at the opening ceremony, and Dr. Juhn Ahn served as a faculty discussant for a roundtable discussion.

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Report by Ha Yeon Lee

July 20, 2012

The Seoul National University - University of Michigan (U-M) Exchange Program for Graduate Students in Korean Literature and History (‘주몽한학학회 서울대-미시간대 대학원생 학술대회’) took place between May 21, 2012 and May 24, 2012 for four days and was the first of its kind. From SNU, approximately 15 students and a number of professors from the College of Humanities (including Korean literature, Korean history, and the Aesthetics departments) participated, while from U-M, five students (specializing in anthropology, social work, Korean literature, Korean studies, and Professors Nojin Kwak and Juhn Ahn took part. Sponsored by Kolmar Korea Co., Ltd., the purpose of the program was to encourage cross-Pacific relationships among the next generation of Korean studies scholars through the exchange of ideas. The first day of the program consisted mostly of student presentations, both in Korean and English, including Michael Prentice’s talk on Korean conglomerates, or chaebol groups, using the lens of kinship and modernity, as well as Susan Hwang’s talk called, “World Literature and its Discontents,” which problematized the politics behind the notion of “world literature” through Korean literary works. Students from SNU presented on topics such as Korean perceptions of the American military occupation in the 1940s (Soo-Hyung Park) and the interpretation involving...
Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries


A GUN IS A VERY PERSONAL THING,


(1958), which has been held to offer a critique of both the norms of painting and contemporary American culture. Similarly YHC’s provocative videos ask us to question our notions of art and the stories integral to our identities. Founded in 1996, YHCHI first became known for video works posted on their website (www.yhchang.com). By presenting their work in this way, YHCHI has been able to bypass intermediaries such as museums and commercial galleries, gaining a worldwide audience. YHCHI’s recent work increasingly has been shown in museums and at international art fairs, allowing them to engage in site-specific installations and experiment. To accompany the UMMA installation, they created an artist book using text written by the exhibition curator; the result is a fascinating example of written words manipulated into images with the same powerful visual presence as in their video work. In addition, they will appear as distinguished speakers in the Penny W. Stamps Speakers Series at the School of Art and Design in October. For details, please check UMMA’s website (www.umma.umich.edu).
Korea from “A Single Shard”

Emerson School students participated in a sanggam demonstration and learned about Korean ceramics and celadons at UMMA.

5th Grade students from Emerson School in Ann Arbor participated in a Nam Center pilot program to teach the culture of ancient Korea through the Newberry Award winning YA novel, “A Single Shard” by Linda Sue Park. Students read and discussed the book about an orphan who dreams of becoming a celadon potter in Goryeo dynasty Korea as part of their English Language Arts and Fine Arts curriculum. The Nam Center loaned the teachers a specially designed “Single Shard” Companion Korea Kit: a treasure box of supplementary books, DVDs, and cultural artifacts designed to bring the cultural setting of the novel alive.

Learning about Korea from “A Single Shard” culminated with a visit to UMMA to view their collection of Korean ceramics at the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery of Korean Art and to participate in a hands-on sanggam (ceramic inlay technique) demonstration by Eunhee Lee, a local artist. UMMA also led groups of students through several areas in the museum, using the collections of Korean ceramics and celadons to engage the students in how ceramics were made in the Goryeo dynasty and reviewing what they learned about Korean celadons through reading “A Single Shard” by tying it to the objects on view. Students ended their time at UMMA with a sketching period at the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery of Korean Art. The Nam Center was pleased to receive some samples of student work in the form of Thank You cards.

This program, along with a classroom set of books and bus subsidies for the visit, will be offered annually by the Center to encourage engagement with ancient Korean history, culture, and the arts at the middle school level.

Fast-Forward Korea

For the Nam Center’s third annual Professional Development Workshop, teachers zipped through 20th century Korean history and culture with the theme “Fast-Forward Korea.” Presented in partnership with the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), the morning began with a lecture by Prof. Younju Ryu, who guided teachers from all over Southeast Michigan on the fundamental shifts in Korean culture and lifestyle in the past 100 years. Paul Kaliszewski (Cranbrook Middle School for Boys) followed with a sketching period at the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery of Korean Art. The Nam Center was pleased to receive some samples of student work in the form of Thank You cards.

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Korea Quiz Bowl

Eight middle-school division and two high-school division teams wooed the crowd with their knowledge of Korean history and culture in the inaugural UM-UM Korea Quiz Bowl, which took place May 12, 2012 in Space 2435 in the North Quad angle Academic and Residential Complex. Teams came from across Michigan and Ohio, representing Sae Jong School, Kalama-zoo Korean School, KLIM Korean School, and Toledo Korean School. Participants were quizzed on diverse facts about Korean cultural heritage, taken from information in the Academy of Korean Studies’ “Exploring Korean History Through World Heritage.”

Participants were quizzed on diverse facts about Korean cultural heritage, taken from information in the Academy of Korean Studies’ “Exploring Korean History Through World Heritage.”

Sae Jong School swept first, second and third place for the middle school division, and in the high school division, second place went to Kalama-zoo Korean School and first place went to Sae Jong School.

The middle-school division consisted of two bracket-style preliminary rounds which were closed to the public, and one final round, which took place in front of the public. The high-school division consisted of one round which took place in front of the public. Sae Jong School swept first, second and third place for the middle school division, and in the high school division, second place went to Kalama-zoo Korean School and first place went to Sae Jong School. All teams who placed received medals and the 1st place teams in both divisions also had their names inscribed on a trophy which will be passed to next year’s champions.

After a successful first annual Korea Quiz Bowl, the Nam Center looks forward to expanding the competition to include more divisions and age levels in upcoming years.
Korea Foundation Graduate Fellow/ Academy of Korean Studies Fellow/ SeAh-Haiam Arts & Sciences Scholarship Recipient

Sue Hwang
Sue Hwang (PhD student, Dept. of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC)) was selected to attend the Institute for World Literature’s annual seminar in Istanbul, Turkey this summer as part of her preparation for her thesis: “South Korean National Literature as ‘World’ Literature: The Politics of Conceptualizing Modern Literary Development.” (No. 24) Hwang studies modern Korean literature, with research interests focusing on Korean literature criticism—in particular, the shifting relationship between literary practices and political resistance in contemporary Korea—and its implications for problematizing essentialist notions of literary forms and literariness. He will spend the academic year in South Korea working on her dissertation project on the relationship between South Korean dissident politics and literary criticism of the 1970s and 80s. Tentatively titled: “South Korean National Literature as ‘World’ Literature: The Politics of Conceptualizing Modern Literary Development.”

Korea Foundation Graduate Fellow
Inah Park
Inah Park is a first year Ph.D. student in the Combined Program in Education and Psychology (CPEP) at the University of Michigan. She completed her early education in Canada before attending New Mexico State University on an athletic scholarship, thanks to FLAS. Thanks to FLAS, so much about Korean language and culture, but had the opportunity to learn about other countries through encounters with other foreigners in the area.

Academy of Korean Studies Fellow
Jonson Porteux
As 6th year PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science, this past academic year (2011-2012) Jonson was able to focus all of his efforts on writing his dissertation and attending conferences through the generous Nam Center for Korean Studies Fellowship. He has furthermore been awarded a dissertation writing grant through the Korea Foundation for the upcoming academic year. Additionally, he is currently preparing for the academic job market. His research broadly investigates how states organize violence in the face of changing economic and political environments, and differing levels of capacity across time, space and issue area. More specifically, he examines the issues of the sub-contracting of coercion to non-state, private entrepreneurs of violence by investigating the regulation of black goods and service markets—including construction (forced recruitments), gambling, prostitution, protection racketeers, and the removal of illegal street vendors. The research consisted of mass interviews and observations, and the collection of data through other sources. Interviews were conducted with police, prosecutors, politicians, business people, and victims, predominantly in Seoul, but in other areas as well.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellows - Graduate
Michael Prentice
Michael Prentice participated in the first annual U-M/SNU Graduate Exchange Program which culminated in a conference in Korean Studies with students from Seoul National University in May of 2011. He presented a paper on the interaction of kinship and modernity during the birth of the chaebol conglomerates during the 1960s under Park Chung Hee. He has spent the rest of his time in Seoul meeting with social scientists in Korea as well as preparing for his future research by interning at Korea’s second largest advertising agency.

Nam Center Graduate Fellows

Brianna Anders
Brianna Anders currently majoring in Asian Studies and Linguistics and decided to travel to Seoul, South Korea this summer in order to study Korean at Sogang University. She learned not only about Korean culture, but had the opportunity to learn about other countries through encounters with other foreigners in the area.

Mary Grace Soignet
Mary Grace Soignet is currently a senior majoring in Korean Studies. She received a FULAS scholarship to participate in Yonsei University’s 10-week study abroad program to study Korean and thoroughly enjoyed her time traveling learning so much about Korean language and culture thanks to FLAS.

Nam Center Graduate Fellows

Jennifer Robertson
Professor, Departments of Anthropology and the History of Art
Jennifer Robertson traveled to Korea last year as part of her research project on the political economy of service robots in Japan and Korea funded by Abe (SSRC) and Guggenheim Fellowships. In late April, she interviewed a number of leading Korean roboticsists at Seoul National University, Hanyang University (Seoul) and KAST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon).

In addition to enjoying wide-ranging conversations on the human-machine relationship, it was a special treat to visit the KAST laboratory of Dr. Oh Junho and Huh, the humanoid robot that he invented and now markets. She also published two articles in 2012: “From Uniqlo to NGOs: The Problematic ‘Culture of Giving’ in Inter-Disaster Japan.” in The Asia-Pacific Journal, Vol. 10, Issue 18, No. 2. and “Hematoma-Nationalism: The Past, Present, and Future of ‘Japanese Blood’” in Medical Anthropology 31(2) 91-112.

David Ederer, Public Health MA
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Irhe Sohn, Asian Languages and Cultures PhD
So Jung Um, Asian Languages and Cultures PhD
Youngchi Chang, Communication PhD
Susan Hwang, Asian Languages and Cultures PhD
Na Yuan Lee, Social Work and Political Science PhD
Hiroaki Matsusaka, History PhD
Bo Jin Kim, Public Health PhD
Soo Young Bae, Communication PhD
Michael Prentice, Anthropology PhD
Jonson Porteux, Political Science PhD

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellows - Undergraduate

Mary Grace Soignet
Mary Grace Soignet is currently a senior majoring in Korean Studies. She received a Fulbright scholarship to participate in Yonsei University’s 10-week study abroad program to study Korean and thoroughly enjoyed her time traveling learning so much about Korean language and culture thanks to FLAS.

Monica Kim (PhD 2012, History) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the Department of History, SUNY Albany.

Hiroaki Matsusaka (Ph.D pre-candidate, Department of History) began his doctoral studies at the University of Michigan in Fall 2011. His academic interests include comparative race relations and trans-Pacific anticolonial/anti-racist movements from the 1920s through the 1940s. He is currently conducting research on African American activism, Black-Asian relations, Korean social movements, and theories on race, colonialism, and modern capitalism. His thesis, “Representing Race in the Republic of Korea: The Politics of Media and Confrontations with the U.S.”, has been selected as a finalist for the 2012 U-M/SNU Graduate Exchange Program.

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2012 KISA Culture Show

Stellar Cho

The KISA Culture Show of 2012 was held at Mendelssohn Theater, featuring many of the same performers from previous years, but with some new fresh faces plus a special guest that always has the potential to draw crowds.

The uniqueness of the show lies in the way it represents Korean culture from one end of the spectrum to another. The vast array of performances started on one end with a more contemporary outdoor from Sinaboro, a collection of musicians that together created a majestic sound using traditional Korean percussion instruments. We also had a group of girls perform a fan dance using traditional Korean fans that can form beautiful movements and patterns. Then on the other end, we had two talented girl groups, Female Cayo and KDM, performed dance covers of the latest and most popular songs in K-Pop. The accuracy and fierceness that these girls showed on stage entirely throughout their own respective segments wowed the audience. Another dance group very well known on campus across all cultures, fusions also performed. Though not new to the culture show scene, it was a great hit to have them back after not having them as a part of our show last year. They stuck to their own unique, funky style focused on stage presence but also added a new twist with bits and pieces of Korean music. Taking a turn from dance groups, we also had a group of amazing singers in Seoul juice who sang in choral fashion to well known Korean songs, including ballad type of pieces as well as upbeat compositions that got the entire audience involved and clapping along. The only band we had for the show was seen in lead, Daniel Kim, a former student of the school. He composed his very own music and like every other group added a Korean spin to his performance that had the audience in awe of his wonderful voice and extremely talented band mates. To top this all off, we finally had our special guest of the show this year, Lydia Pakki! She is well-known for her work with WC entertainment and as a former dancer of Quest Crew. During this performance, she showed off her beautiful voice and added a couple dance moves in between that surely had every single person watching around. In addition, we had clips of a Korean drama made and acted by our very own students. This gave the audience the opportunity to share many laughs and see another staple of Korean culture.

2012 KISA Valentine’s Concert

Dimma Mobilio

Korean Graduate Students from U-M (KGS) appreciated Nam Center support in holding the first ever Valentine’s Concert. This event offered the Korean graduate students the opportunity to share their love for Korea-related musical talent on campus to the Korean university and resident communities. The evening opened with a brief introduction of KISA, followed by two piano performances by Noh Oh, and Hayeon Park. Ms. Oh played Claude Debussy’s ‘Estampes 1’, ‘Paganides’ and Robert Schumann’s ‘Träumchenbewegung’. The first act consisted of a performance by Song In Gyong Kang Ho, which consists of 10 graduate students. They played four K-pop songs and two pop songs: Depapepe, 이태리아의, 우리지일탈, and Europa. This was followed by a performance by the Kpop dance group KDM which performed the dance routines of several popular K-Pop hits. The Sinaboro Group showcased our evening with two pieces in a roving performance.

Sinaboro

Sydney Yum

Sinaboro, U-M’s Traditional Korean Drumming Group, had a successful 2011-2012 year, culminating in our 12th Annual Concert, which was held on April 4th, 2012. During the 2011-2012 year, Sinaboro’s thirty-eight members were led by Hyung Sun Joon Ryo as Administrative President and Hye Sun Mukhwa Cho as Instructional President. In addition to member events, like our Welcome MT Retreat, Holiday Dinner, and Pre-Concert Practice MT Retreat, Sinaboro performed at many events throughout the U-M community and beyond. Some events Sinaboro performed at include the Nam Center for Korean Studies’ Chuseok Dance Party, UAAO’s HappyDAPA, KISA Culture Show, and VSA’s Dem Viet Nam Culture Show. Sinaboro also did outreach events, at Emerson Elementary in Detroit and Bach Elementary in Ann Arbor, at Health Kick 2011 in Ann Arbor, and at the Korean American Community of Metro Detroit’s 2012 Dano Festival in Southfield. Furthermore, Sinaboro’s Instructional Staff taught Sinaboro Junior both Youngram and Utdari, which they performed at the annual concert.

Sinaboro’s 12th Annual Concert, held on April 4th, 2012, was a great success with over 400 people in attendance this year. The concert’s theme was ‘Cinderella’. The concert was tied together with a mini movie, in which Cinderella, who loves Samulnori music, finds love and makes amends with her evil step-sisters and stepmother through traditional Korean drumming. In addition to performances by the traditional Samulnori repertoire, including Utdari and Samdo, the concert featured an A Capella sectional singing “As Long as You Love Me” by the Backstreet Boys, “Good Person” by Super Junior, and “Can’t You Love Me?” from the Dream High OST, a K-pop Dance sectional including Wonder Girls “Be My Baby”, SNPS’s “1 AM THE BEST”, and Donghae and Eunhyuk’s “Oppa, a traditional Jangdo Dance sectional with a modern Latin-themed twist, a Contemporary Fusion Drumming sectional including modern music beats played on Samulnori instruments, and from performances from Sinaboro Junior and Eastern Michigan University’s Hanbok Korean Drumming Group.

KULM

Cindy Hoang

KULM. The Union for Korean Issues in Michigan continues to build the relationship between Korean culture and American culture on campus through various fun and educational events and debates. This past year, KULM has successfully collaborated with KBC to host the first Korea Career Expo. KULM also hosted various other events, e.g. Korean Food Showcase and other fun social events. KULM is always looking to have new members join in any of the events or weekly debates.

KBC

Shereen Kim

KBC Undergrad is a group of Korean undergraduate students at the University of Michigan pursuing career interest in business and passion in learning about different functional areas. KBC Undergrad works collaboratively with MBA students through mentorship program to help members gain insights into job markets and define the best career path for their futures. In addition, KBC Undergrad hosts several academic events throughout the year, including a career panel, a BBA application workshop, resume review as well as networking event with MBA students. In 2012, KBC Undergrad led a collaborative project with KULM to provide students with information on how to work or join cultural programs in Korea.

Global Course Connections in Seoul

Organized by the Center for Global and Intercultural Study, the Global Course Connections program offers students the opportunity to participate in a shorter term study abroad opportunity. In 2012, students in the course had the opportunity to engage in dialogic interactions with partner students at Seoul National University (SNU) during an 18-day field experience.

Field sites provided background information and hands-on experience. For example, we visited the newly War and Women’s Human Rights Museum to learn about the history of “comfort women”; i.e., sexual slaves of the Japanese military, and then we joined the surviving former victims in a protest outside the Japanese Embassy. I had read about “comfort women,” but seeing the museum and the “halmoni” protestants were truly eye-opening. We also visited the Kimchi Field Museum to learn about the great significance of this national food, and we tried different types of kimchi at restaurants. Other field sites included a countryside elementary school in Hongcheon, the World Fair Trade Festival, the DMZ, a temple stay, Nongari seafood market, volunteer events for feeding the homeless and teaching underprivileged children, and more. These field sites enriched our exchanges with the SNU students and contributed to our final projects, which were presentations on different aspects of our dialogue. My partner and I presented on teenage life in Korea and America, focusing on methods of communication, entertain, and social problems. Working on the project was one of the most educational experiences, as we surprised each other with new facts and contradictions to stereotypes.

As Korea is now a preferred trade partner for the United States, and as both countries intensifying their exposure to each other’s media, programs like GCC are becoming increasingly valuable. The scholarship provided by the Nam Center for Korean Studies was part of what made this truly educational experience possible for me, so I am very grateful. As many countries have skewed impressions of Americans, many Americans have an inaccurate impression of Korea, and I hope to be able to share with other students a firsthand perspective as a result of this thought-provoking program.
Faculty, Scholar & Staff Updates

Faculty

Woojoo Kim joined the Korean Language Program this year as a Lecturer. She received her Master’s Degree in June 2012 from the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Her research and study focused on North Korea. She also taught Korean Language in the Asian Language and Literature Department of the University of Washington where she received the Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award in 2011. Her current research interests include sociolinguistic-propaganda speeches in North Korea and teaching methodology for second languages through classroom interaction.

Visiting Scholars

Hun-mo Yi, Professor in the Faculty of Law at Chosun University in Japan, came to Ann Arbor last April as a visiting scholar. Based in Japan, and his interest field of research is the local government system in the U.S. His research project is to study central and local government relations in America, the widely accepted model for decentralization, and compare those with relations in Japan and Korea, and identify differences and main characteristics.

Core Nam Center Faculty

Julie Ahn, Assistant Professor, Asian Languages & Cultures
Micah Auerback, Assistant Professor of Japanese Religion, Asian Languages & Cultures
David Chung, Professor, School of Art & Design
Sangkyung Han, Director, Korean Language Program, Asian Languages and Culture
Hunjin Jung, Lecturer, Korean Language Program
Joan Kee, Assistant Professor, History of Art
Hwa-jin Kim, William W. Cook Global Law Professor
Jong-jin Kim, Associate Professor, School of Architecture & Urban Planning
Woojeom Kim, Lecturer, Korean Language Program
Nojin Kwak, Associate Professor, Communication Studies
Kyongmi Park, Lecturer, Korean Language Program, Asian Languages and Culture
Youngja Ryu, Assistant Professor of Modern Korean Literature, Asian Languages & Cultures

Nam Center Visiting Scholars

Jaegul Ryu, Regulatory and Legal Affairs Team Member, Cultural Heritage Administration
Hun-mo Yi, Professor, Faculty of Law, Chosun University
Eun-mi Choi, Doctoral Student, Political Science and International Relations, Korea University

Nam Center Staff

Anna Boot, Office Assistant
Adrienne Janney, Research Project Coordinator
Nojin Kwak, Director
Hoon Lee, Academy of Korean Studies Post-Doctoral Fellow
Sangjeun Lee, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Jyoung Lee, Center Administrator
Do-hee Morsman, Community Outreach Coordinator
Lyndsey Twinning, Office Assistant

Prior to his graduate studies in America, Lee worked for film and TV productions in South Korea as a screenwriter, director and assistant producer for many years. His articles on the Asian Film Festival, transnational horror films, South Korean martial arts films and literature in the 1960s, and contemporary Pan-Asian epic cinemas have appeared in such anthologies and journals as Oxford Handbook of Japanese Cinema, Coming Soon to a Film Festival Near You, East Asian Cinema and Cultural Heritage, Transnational Cinemas, Transnational Horror and Contemporary Film Studies. This past year, Lee also organized the first conference in the Perspectives on Contemporary Korea series, “Halluluj 2.0: The Korean Wave in the Age of Social Media.”

Lyndsey Twinning is currently a junior in the USA Honors Program, concentrating in Asian Languages and Cultures and specializations in Korean Studies, and working on her honors thesis. Thanks to a FLAS Summer Fellowship, she spent 10 weeks during the summer of 2011 studying Korean language at Yonsei University in Seoul. After volunteering at Nam Center events numerous times since summer 2010, she was delighted to join the Nam Center Staff as a part-time office assistant in January of 2012.

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Adrienne Janney joined the Nam Center in March as a Research Project Coordinator on the Overseas Leading University Program for Korean Studies (OLUPKS). This work includes planning international, interdisciplinary conferences on contemporary Korean issues of research interest, working with the U-M Press to coordinate a multi-author, multi-editor book series, Perspectives on Contemporary Korea, and providing comprehensive reports for the Academy for Korean Studies on the OLUPKS at the University of Michigan. She has a bachelor’s degree in English and master of science in information focusing on economics and policy. Her background includes experience in journalism, writing, editing and research implementation and administration.

Visiting Scholars

Junah Sung, Korean Studies Librarian. Junah completed the Leadership and Career Development Program (LCPD) of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in June 2010. The LCPD is a competitive, 18-month program designed to prepare librarians from traditionally underrepresented groups to take on leadership roles in major academic libraries. Junah was the 1st Korean Studies librarian to be selected for this Program which includes training institutes, a mentorship with a library director, and a research activity. The title of her research project is “The Rapid Growth of Electronic Resources in East Asian Library Collections.”

Eun-mi Choi is a doctoral degree student at Korea University majoring in Political Science and International Relations, with a focus on Comparative Politics. She has participated in seminars and presentations at International Political Science Conferences such as APSA, ISA, KPSA and published articles related to Korea-Japan relations. Interested in the Japanese political economy, she is currently researching the political structure factors of Japan’s long-term depression.

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Upcoming Events in 2012-2013

Ann Arbor Korean Independent Film Festival

October 3-7, 2012
Natural Sciences Auditorium, Kraus Building
The Nam Center and the U-M Screen Arts and Cultures Department, in association with the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

December 6-7, 2012
The festival will also feature a screening at the Ann Arbor Downtown Library.

Nam Center for Korean Studies Colloquium Series 2012-2013

All colloquia will be held at 4 pm in Room 1636 of the International Institute unless specified otherwise. The International Institute is located in the School of Social Work Building at 1080 S. University Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Fall 2012

9/26/2011 Steven Lee, Assistant Professor, Department of English, UC Berkeley “Avant-Cardes Routes for the Korean Diaspora”

10/2/2012 Young Heon Lee, Professor, Department of Economics, Sogang University “Professional Sports in Korea and Comparison to the US Sports”

10/7/2012 Minja Shin, Visiting Assistant Professor, Film Studies & Korean Studies, Michigan State University “The Others within us: Multiculturalism and Ethnic Minorities in South Korean Cinema”

11/14/2012 George Kallander, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Syracuse University “The Royal Hunt in Korea: Koryo-Mongol Interactions in the Late Thirteenth Century”

12/5/2012 Jamie Shinhee Lee, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan “A woman with a hot body but a baby face” and “a chic, smooth talker: Blending lexicon and shifting images on Korean TV”

Winter 2013

1/23/2013 John Treat, Professor, Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures, Yale University “Chang Hyokchu and the Twentieth Century”


U-M/USC Fellows Exchange Program

The U-M/USC Undergraduate Exchange Program is aimed not only to pique students’ interest in Korean Studies and contemporary Korean issues early in their careers, but also to help them receive the necessary structure and guidance that will aid them should they continue on to graduate degrees in Korean Studies. Four-five undergraduates will be selected yearly to be Nam Center Graduate Fellows and their experience will culminate in an annual meeting with their counterparts from the University of Southern California (USC) Korean Studies Institute. In preparation, students may apply to participate in Korean Studies Faculty research projects, in addition, the Nam Center will encourage fellows to write course papers on Korea-related topics, and invite students to formal functions (such as colloquium lectures) with Korean Studies faculty, visiting faculty and policy-makers throughout the U.S.

In February 2013, U-M students will travel to USC to present papers based on their work with faculty members and other experiences. Students will also be invited to an open discussion session with Korean Studies faculty, and learn about additional research as well as future career opportunities in Korean Studies. In 2014, USC student fellows will travel to Ann Arbor for the exchange meeting.

Nam Center for Korean Studies Summer in Korea Scholarship Fund

Chairman Dae-Won Moon will provide a grant of $50,000 to establish the Summer in Korea Scholarship Fund which will be used to dispatch students to Korea for language instruction and subject courses at the Yonsei International Summer School of Yonsei University. The Fund will be used to cover tuition and related expenses for scholar-ship recipients each summer. Two U-M undergraduate students studying Korean Studies or a Korea-related field will be selected each year. Preference will be given to those who are planning to write their senior thesis on Korea.
You Can Help!

Gifts to the Nam Center for Korean Studies help support research, teaching, the Korean Language Program and the Korean Collection in the Asia Library. The Center also helps student organizations, provides graduate fellowships, and sponsors visiting scholars, public lectures, our film series and many other special events. Your gift will also help us recruit and retain the finest students and faculty.

Enclosed is my gift of:  

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If you are interested in helping to support the mission of the center, please contact the Nam Center office. The University of Michigan can also work with your financial advisors to design a trust or bequest. Please detach the form below and return with your check (payable to University of Michigan) to:

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Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

For information about ways to support the Nam Center for Korean Studies, please contact us at:

Nam Center for Korean Studies
T: 734-764-1825  F: 734-764-2252
Email: ncks.info@umich.edu

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